



PRESS RELEASE

House National Security Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

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Statement by Chairman Floyd D. Spence (R-SC) on the Air Force Investigation into the Khobar Towers Bombing

“While I have yet to see the Air Force report on the Khobar Towers bombing, if press reports are accurate, it raises the specter of no one within the military chain of command being held accountable for the Khobar Towers tragedy. Avoiding such tragedies in the future will only come from a better understanding and correction of the intelligence and operational shortcomings that were clearly evident. However, these issues were not the focus of the Air Force investigation.

“As the National Security Committee investigation discovered and the Downing report confirmed, the personnel assigned to the Khobar Towers complex were sent to execute a mission without the proper tools and under confusing and sometimes conflicting guidance. These are clearly issues that involve the entire military chain of command. Only when we fully understand and confront these problems will the proper lessons of Khobar Towers be learned and will we be in a position to hopefully avoid repeating history’s mistakes.”